

[18 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

station has been opened for traffic on 12.04.2000 and is expected to serve the needs of Krishnanagar village.

Action on Probe Reports into Rail Accidents

2925. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Ministry of Railways to file an affidavit in the Court on action taken report on the recommendation of various Commissions of enquiry set up to probe rail accidents in the country

(b) if so, whether the direction has been complied with; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would place in Parliament an account of the various steps taken for technical upgradation and modernisation of Railways and for ensuring safety and security measures; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

Action on Probe Reports into Rail Accidents.

(a) A Public Interest Litigation petition has been filed alleging that adequate attention is not paid by Railways to modernisation and measures to improve safety. The petition has, *interalia*, prayed to set up a group of expert to look into all aspects of functioning of railway system.

(b) A draft affidavit has since been submitted to Solicitor General of India.

(c) To go into all aspects connected with the safe running of train services, Ministry of Railways have already set up a High Powered Railway Safety Review Committee in August 1998 under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna—a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:

- (a) To review the position of accidents on the Indian Railways since the appointment of the Railways Accidents Inquiry Committee, 1968 and to review the implementation of the recommendations of all previous Accident Inquiry Committees;

- (b) To examine the adequacy of the existing organisation, equipments and practices for ensuring safe running of trains on Indian Railways and to suggest measures for prevention of accidents;
- (c) Implications of financial investment planning of Railway projects on safety;
- (d). To examine safety measures/equipments/technology as adopted by Railways of some of the advanced countries which would have relevance for Indian Railways and could also be adopted for use on Indian Railways.

The Railway Safety Review Committee has already submitted Part-I of their Report, which has also been placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. It is proposed to take action on those recommendations which will be accepted by the Government depending upon the availability of funds and resources.

Privatisation of Loco and Coach Production Units

2926. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal for privatisation of the loco and coach production units is under consideration;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status of the proposal; and
- (c) whether after privatisation, these units would be able to sustain themselves and be able to compete in the world market to earn valuable foreign exchange for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Freight Operation Informations System

2927. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Railways have installed the Freight Operation Information System at certain Railway sections;